

From: TrapMac2
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/17/02 9:11pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As you have invited comments, I will speak as an average citizen who uses technology. I have earned my living using personal computers for almost fifteen years. During that time, I have rarely seen any Microsoft product demonstrate genuine innovation or creative imagination. Instead, they seem motivated only by a desire to control and dominate the entire digital world. Their use of anticompetitive practices and strongarm tactics have won them great wealth and power while providing the computer users of the world with mediocrity and lack of choice.

The computer has revolutionized the world we live in and made tremendous contributions to our society and economy. The decision the Court will render in this case will greatly influence the development of technology and civilization over the next century. As only one small working-class person, I have no hope of standing against the world's richest corporation. All of society is composed of small, insignificant specks like me and our only defense against an amoral giant such as Microsoft is you.

In a criminal case, much emphasis is placed on the defendant's remorse over his/her crime. Microsoft demonstrates absolutely no remorse, continues to deny that a crime even took place, and displays no respect for the Court or its proceedings. They provided doctored evidence during trial (the videotape), contradictory and misleading testimony, and as a "remedy" they actually proposed an action that would extend their monopoly even further in the area of education. What criminal defendant could display such utter lack of remorse and not receive the harshest possible sentence?

What I ask from this Court is simple: Whatever settlement terms are arranged, there must be an absolute and completely Independent Oversight Agency who can monitor and, if need be, neutralize future anti-competitive actions by Microsoft. If Microsoft is allowed even the smallest loophole, they will find a way to slither through it. And all the world, tiny computing nobodies like me, will suffer for it. I beg you to defend us against that dire fate.

Sociopath is the word we use to describe a human being without a conscience but what word shall we employ for a corporation without a conscience? Microsoft CANNOT be trusted and will immediately start seeking ways to evade and undermine any remedies that the Court will devise. I urge you to keep that one thought foremost during your deliberations.

Thank You

Tim Bowen
26078 Crocker Road

Columbia Station, Ohio 44028
330-483-3832
lorien@apk.net